

WASHINGTON STATE

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OFFICER

MONTHLY REPORT

January 2004

CATEGORY	JAN 2004	JAN 2003	YTD 04	YTD 03
CSEPP INCIDENTS	3	2	3	2
DOE INCIDENTS	0	1	0	1
FIRE	8	10	8	10
HAZMAT	153	153	153	153
OTHER	20	25	20	25
911 OUTAGES	2	3	2	3
SAR	44	33	44	33
TERRORIST	0	0	0	0
WEATHER	4	4	4	4
CGS INCIDENTS	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	234	231	234	231

LEGEND

CSEPP	Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program
DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
SAR	Search and Rescue Missions
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather Incidents (throughout state, i.e., Flood, High Winds, and Snow)
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Forest Fire Incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, i.e., Tsunami, Earthquake, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threat, etc...
911	911 Service Outages

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

On January 1, through January 3, Winter Storm and Heavy Snow Warnings were issued for most of eastern Washington and Snow Advisories were issued for the metropolitan areas of Puget Sound. Blizzard-like conditions closed several roads as up to 8 inches of new snow fell in the lower elevations and up to 12 inches fell in the mountains.

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On January 1, King County conducted a search for an overdue skier in the Alpentel area of Snoqualmie Pass. Additional mountain rescue, search personnel and 4x4's were coordinated from Pierce, Snohomish, Kittitas, Whatcom, Skagit, Lewis, Yakima and Chelan Counties and the Olympic Mountain Rescue to assist. The individual was located just barely alive with severe frostbite on January 4 and transported to the hospital for treatment.

On January 5, Heavy Snow Warnings and Winter Storm Warnings were issued for all of Washington State except for the Blue Mountains. Up to 10 inches of snow fell in the lowlands with more than a foot at higher elevations. In response to the significant impact, on January 6, the State Emergency Operations Center increased its staffing (as the center was already operating at Phase II due to the increased terror level) to support local jurisdictions to coordinate response activities. On January 7, snow changing to rain coupled with rising freezing levels raised concern over the potential for flooding. This winter storm event produced dangerous road conditions with many driving accidents, minor flooding and some power outages from downed power lines. The last flood watch ended in Thurston County at 11:45 hrs on January 10th terminating this statewide winter storm weather event.

On January 5, a search was conducted in Kitsap County for a missing 50 year-old male dementia patient near the town of Port Orchard. Additional resources were coordinated from Pierce County to assist with the search. The subject was located later that night in good condition.

On January 14, a magnitude 3.3 earthquake occurred at 0413 hrs located 7 miles west of Chelan. There were no reports of damages.

On January 20, Pacific County conducted a search for a missing 54 year-old female and 57 year-old male along Ledbetter Point north of Long Beach. Additional resources were coordinated to assist from Thurston, Grays Harbor, Cowlitz, Lewis and Clark Counties as well as a helicopter with Forward Looking Infra Red (FLIR) from the USCG stationed in Astoria. The female was found deceased on January 24th when her body washed ashore. The search for the man was suspended later that same day.

On January 21, the National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Warning for Pend Oreille, Stevens, and Northern Spokane Counties with the expectation of up to 6 inches of snow. On January 22, the National Weather Service expanded the Warning to include all of Spokane County and the eastern portion of Lincoln County. A High Wind Watch was added on January 27th for Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla and Columbia Counties.

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On January 28, Winter Storm Warnings were issued for the Olympic and west slopes of the Cascade Mountains and a Flood Watch was issued for all rivers in Lewis, Thurston, Grays Harbor, Mason, Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties.

On January 29 and January 30, Flood Warnings were issued for the Tolt, Snoqualmie, Skokomish, Puyallup, Chehalis, Snohomish and Walla Walla Rivers and Issaquah Creek. An Extreme Avalanche Warning was also issued for the Olympic and Cascade Mountains above the 5,000 foot level and a Winter Storm Warning was issued for the Willapa Hills and the west slopes of the southern Cascades. The Extreme Avalanche Warning and Winter Storm Warnings were terminated on January 30th and Flood Watches and Warnings ended at 1055 hours on Saturday, January 31st. Several roads were closed with minor to major flooding being reported in low lying areas. However, there were no local Emergency Operation Centers activated or requests made for state assistance for this short term flooding event.

On January 31 the King County Sheriff conducted search for possibly more victims of the Green River Killer in Kent. Additional resources were coordinated from Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap Counties to assist.

- For the month of January the SEOO's:
 - Issued 209 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Issued 77 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Conducted 553 notifications to state agency liaisons for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Coordinated 23 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations
 - Participated in 22 exercises of which 18 were vessel spill drills
 - Made 1167 and answered 1640 telephone calls
 - Conducted 1705 National Warning System Tests, conducted 232 Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio tests. (connects all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console)
 - Conducted 55 dedicated line tests with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)

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- Conducted 3 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE)
- Conducted 6 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS)
- Conducted 52 down wind trajectory connectivity communications tests with the Umatilla Military Storage Depot (D2PUFF)